

Land Settlement Association
Bulletin No 41
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Sidlesham Heritage Trail



Seasons Greetings to you all

2019

2019 has been another good year for the LSA project. The exhibition at the Weald & Downland Museum in September attracted more than 600 visitors and 60+ comments; contacts were established with Foxash LSA, the LSA presentation with the film was made to 7 local groups (that makes 42 times now since 2014) and I made contact with the relatives of 4 more original tenants (Edwards(25), Santon (34), Campbell (27) and Wilkes (27).

2020 and beyond

Next time you pass the Canal Basin in Chichester visit the Chichester Canal Heritage Centre next to the café, free parking is available. I have access to the display materials used for the exhibition at the Weald & Downland – let's find another venue to tell the LSA story - any ideas?

I am currently updating the website correcting typos and ensuring that I have included all the information, stories and photographs which you have sent me. Please check out 'Stories', including 'More' and 'People' and let me know if any amendments are needed with reference to your family - many thanks.

There are already dates in the 2020 diary for 3 more LSA presentations to local groups.

Amazing co-incidences

During the course of my research there have been some amazing co-incidences For example, our film was made by Ben Cloud (Millstream Productions), who was the great grandson of an original shipbuilder, Henry Cloud (No 133). the LSA house at the Weald and Downland was the home of Godfrey Shirt, an LSA manager, who organised LSA lorries to transport the first buildings to the museum and later became a volunteer steward at the museum and 'Darkie' Kemp (No 39) after the closure of the LSA named his house 'EI-Es-Ay', etc

Well how about this I moved to Sidlesham in 2006 and bought a bungalow, previously owned by Win Langer. In 2015 I wrote a local walking booklet 'Walks around Sidlesham', only to find that Win had produced an earlier version in 1977. Then whilst trawling the 1939 Census for LSA references I found the entry for Win Langer who at that time was , Secretary to the LSA Estate Manger I do not believe it!

Commented [BM1]:

Another Amazing Co-incidence

The stories just keep coming The Wilkinsons were the first tenants at No 33 (Chalk Lane) arriving in 1936. Daughter Betty (Lapper) emailed me from Canada when she heard that I made the link to the Santons (No 34) during the exhibition at the Weald and Downland. The Wilkinsons and Santon both came from Hebburn, County Durham. Both families left for Dartford at the outbreak of war when Robert Wilkinson joined a munitions factory and Harry Higgs (Santon's son-in-law) joined the Royal Navy. Both families now have descendants in Canada, living an hour apart!

LSA's Biggest Family

I thought Carl and Edith Holly (No 100) had a big family with 12 children. However, George and Susanna Santon (No 34) had 13 children, 6 were on the School's Admissions Register in 1939 Census, a 7th was married and came south with her husband Harry Wilks to be tenants at No 27.

1939 Census

The Sidlesham School Admissions Register has been a fantastic source of information as it contains the names of children from 133 LSA families (up to 1940). The 1939 Census gave me the names of 19 more tenants as well as the wives of other tenants whose first names I had not previously known. It also made reference to people's occupations such as 'LSA Trainee', ex-coal miner', Coal Hower', etc. The census took place in September 1939, after the outbreak of war and was used, I have been told, as a basis for issuing ration books.

Only one first name left !

The Boatman family were at No 70 during the 1970s – first names please.

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Thank you for all your continued support and assistance with this project.
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